

CLAIMS

1. A method of configuring a shared directory hosted environment comprising the steps of:

providing access over at least one data network to a shared a directory, wherein the
5 directory is configured to include at least one entry for each entity authorized to employ information stored in the directory;

including in the at least one entry an editable form which when filled with identification information for the entity creates a wild card entry which is accessible when the directory is searched; and

10 restricting access to a first view directory when entities access the directory to access the at least one entry; and

creating a second view of the directory, wherein the second view is configured with selection criteria matching that provide for locating and retrieving on the at least one entry in the directory with matching identification information as that of the at least one entity.

15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the entities comprise at least one of: at least one person and at least one group.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein directory is hosted on a Domino server employing Lotus Notes messaging.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the first view is \$PeoplesGroupFlat and the
20 second is a duplicate of \$PeoplesGroupFlat

5. The method of claim 2 wherein the hierarchical information relates to at least one of: an organization and a location.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the directory are employable for providing emessaging services.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein identification information is configured in hierarchal form and includes at least one of: company name and company location.

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8 A method for presenting address information to accessing parties in a shared directory environment comprising the steps of:

detecting query from at least one entity over a data network seeking a first view of at least one entry in a shared directory;

5 searching the shared directory and locating and retrieving identification information for the at least one entity, wherein the identification information for each of the at least one entries in the shared directory include an additional field which provides for input of hierarchal information which creates a wild card entry for the hierarchal information portion of the at least one entry;

10 denying access to the first view, and based on the hierarchal information identifying all of the at least one entries in the directory which include the hierarchal information; and presenting all the of the identified at least one entries in a second view.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the shared directory is configurable for supporting emessaging.

15 10. The method of claim 8 wherein the at least one entry include the identification information for at least one of: a person and a group.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein the hierarchal information includes at least one of: company name and company location.

20 12. The method of claim 8 wherein the directory is configured on a domino server as part of a Lotus Notes application.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the domino server provides hosted emessaging services for a plurality of third parties.

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14. The method of claim 13 wherein the first view is \$PeopleGroupsFlat and the second view is a copy of the \$PeopleGroupsFlat view with modified selection criteria.

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15. A system for providing limited access to entries in a directory in a shared environment comprising;

a data network interface for receiving and processing queries for accessing directory information over at least one data network and performing functions with regards to accessing
5 associated directories;

a directory in connection with the interface which includes a plurality of entries, each associated with at least one entity having access to the shared environment, wherein each of the plurality of entries is further configured to include an additional field which provides for input of hierarchal information which creates a wild card entry for the hierarchal information portion
10 of the at least one entry; and

the data network interface further configured to include first and second view the plurality of entries in the directory, wherein access to the first view is restricted and the second view is a copy of the first view but with modified selection criteria, wherein the second view provides access to those of the plurality of entries which include the hierarchal information.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the date network is the internet and the interface is configured to communicate with web browsers.

17. The system of claim 15 wherein the network interface and the directory are configured on Domino server employing Lotus Notes application.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the interface and directory are configured to
20 provide hosted emessaging services for a plurality of third parties.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein the first view comprises \$PeopleGroupsFlat and the second view is a copy of the \$PeopleGroupsFlat view with the modified selection criteria.

20. The system of claim 15 wherein the fields are provided for at least one of: people entries and group entries in the directory.

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